

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council

Meeting Number 131 (4-13)

April 1, 2013

The Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meetings are held at the new Harford County Sheriff's Office Southern Precinct, 1305 Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, MD 21040.

Meeting Number 131 was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. Paula Mullis welcomed special guests Melissa Williams of the MD Department of Transportation and Pastor Donte Hickman of the Southern Baptist Church. Paula also offered special acknowledgment to Captain Krass of the Sheriff's Office and Councilman Guthrie. Local council members present were Paula Mullis, Gloria Moon, Doris G. Carey, Ron Sollod, Betty Byrne and James B. Lyons, III. Members absent were Yvonne Baldwin, Bob Frisch and Vincent Rabenau. Gloria Moon moved and Ron Sollod seconded that the March minutes be approved.

Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report

Captain Krass reported that the latest statistics and current trends from last month continue. Burglaries are still decreasing. He requested that community members remain vigilant in their neighborhoods. Neighbors are encouraged to call the police if they see anything suspicious in their neighborhoods. He also stated that participants need to be aware of identity theft. If tax returns are filed but are not accepted, you could be the victim of identity theft and should call the police. Captain Krass was thanked for his presentation.

Melissa Williams – MD Department of Transportation – Section 200

Melissa Williams stated that due to the down turn in the economy, the Section 200 project does not have the funding to continue. If community members have questions or would like to make comments about the project, questions may be referred to the Department of Transportation. Comments on the water or wetlands will be taken also. Even though some modifications have been negotiated on the project, at this time there is no funding to move forward. As a response to Gloria Moon's question,

Melissa Williams promised to have a public meeting when the Section 200 project is restarted. Paula thanked Ms. Williams for her presentation.

Rev. Dr. Donte' L. Hickman, Sr. – Discussion of Plans for the Joppa Swim Club and Southern Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Donte' L. Hickman, Sr. explained that he is pastor of Southern Baptist Church with locations in Harford County, Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City. He stated that Southern Baptist Church in Harford County began at the Bel Air Regal Cinema. However, the congregation quickly outgrew that location and relocated to Aberdeen High School. Pastor Hickman is looking to build a facility in the Joppatowne area, specifically at the site of the Joppatowne Swim Club. Negotiations are underway to purchase the swim club property, and plans are to build a church in 3 to 5 years after the property is purchased. Pastor Hickman will continue to dialogue with the community council and work with the community. Paula Mullis thanked him for his presentation.

County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie

Councilman Guthrie expressed his appreciation for everyone who voted against the gas tax and the storm water management tax. In his opinion, the bills are bad, because the tax increases hurt everyone. Storm water management impacts all 24 jurisdictions, but the fee only applies to 10 jurisdictions: 9 counties and Baltimore City. Municipalities are exempt. A fee of \$125 is proposed for every household for the next 3 years and beyond. Businesses will pay a fee for every 500 square feet. All 10 jurisdictions are paying a different rate. The councilman is in favor of everyone paying the same rate. He has also received many complaints about a lot of trash and garbage on both sides of Rt. 40. Councilman Guthrie stated that on Arbor Day, over 320 volunteers planted over 125 trees at the Edgewood Elementary School and the Boys and Girls Club. The local parade will be held in Edgewood on July 6, 2013 at 6 p.m. It will start at the Boys and Girls Club. The Joppatowne carnival will be held from May 20 – 27. The money earned will pay for parade expenses. Volunteers are needed to help with the carnival; please call 410-679-9399. Dion introduced Mike Catalano who is a part of a group that is working to connect all Park and Recreation trails throughout the country. Catalano gave a brief history lesson on how the trails can be connected where people work, live, and play. Dion didn't have anything

to report concerning the waste transfer station. He believes everything is still moving forward. Paula Mullis thanked the councilman for his participation.

Community Updates from Community Council Members and Community

James B. Lyons, III shared that the volunteer fire and EMS association in partnership with Harford County Public Schools created a high school program to train high school seniors to become volunteer and career fire fighters and emergency medical technicians. Ron Sollod reiterated that smoke alarms must be checked. He said that fire companies and the state are looking at a new fire alarm that will last up to 10 years. Gloria Moon commented on “A Citizen’s Guide to Harford County’s Property Development Process by the Friends of Harford.” Mike Kalinski of Senator Nancy Jacob’s office announced that the gas tax passed. Jeff Wainwright reported that there is a new audio-visual system in the fire hall. The company will start offering the fire hall to businesses and communities for rental for various events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Minutes by Doris Carey